

NEWS RELEASE



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San Rafael Canal Dredging to Begin Early November

The City of San Rafael, in partnership with the San Francisco District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is pleased to announce Canal waterway improvements that will significantly help the City's marine related businesses and recreational boaters. The Corps has awarded a \$1.38 million dollar contract to RDA Contracting of San Rafael to dredge the San Rafael Canal. Mayor Boro and Public Works staff worked diligently to secure these federal funds. Corps of Engineers staff will oversee the dredging, in coordination with the City's Department of Public Works. "With this dredging completed, recreational boaters will be able to navigate the Canal and enjoy our waterway in a way that has not been possible in recent years" said Mayor Albert J. Boro.

The Corps has dredged the Canal 12 times since 1930, most recently in 2002. The waterway has silted in significantly in the past 9 years – sections of the Inner Channel are now only 2 feet deep at low tide, barely navigable and potentially a safety hazard.

"Dredging the Canal is an important economic development action that can only be funded every 5 to 7 years" said Mayor Boro. "This project would not have been possible without the full support of Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Representative Lynn Woolsey. I cannot thank them enough."

Dredging will begin in early November and will continue for approximately 4 weeks, 7 days per week, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The City will hold a community meeting to announce this project at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19 at the Pickleweed Community Center, 50 Canal St. Representatives of the City, the San Francisco District Office of the Corps of Engineers and regulatory agencies will be available to provide information and answer questions.

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